respect of its DMT project. This request is also under consideration.

Concessions to tea industry

*111. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announcd a package of concessions to tea industry for boosting thereof; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how far tea exports are likely to go up as a result of these concessions?

*THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) Measures taken in the recent past to increase exports of tea include, higher cash compensatory support on value added teas, excise rebate of 50 paise per kg. on export of bulk tea, full rebate of excise duty on exports of packet teas, exemption of excise duty on tea bags, exemptions of customs duty on filter paper used in manufacture of tea bags etc.

These concessions will have a favourable impact on tea exports. During April-September, 1986, exports of tea are provisionally placed at 79.79 million kgs. valued at Rs. 240.47 crores as compared to 72.63 million kgs. valued at Rs. 233.36 crores during the corresponding period of 1985.

Unclaimed provident fund amount

*112. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated unclaimed provident fund amount as on 31st Octorber, 1986 in the country;

(b) whether Government have made any efforts to locate the genuine claimants; and

(c) if so, how much unclaimed provident fund was paid durng the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The information as on 31st October, 1986 is not readily available. However, according to the EPF authorities, a sum of Rs. 16.29 crores was lying unclaimed in their Unclaimed Deposit Account as on 31-3-1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. The EPF authorities have been instructed to make all out efforts to locate the subscribers who have not preferred their claim. Claimants for about Rs. 10.60 crores have been identified by the EPF authorities.

(c) The information is as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount
1983-84	12·93
1984-85	26·40
1985-86	15·18

Closure of foreign branches of nationalised banks

*113. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 percent of the foreign branches of the nationalised banks will be closed down within the next six months as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's drastic reorganisation plan for overseas banking operations;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the total number of foreign branches of nationalised banks at present countrywise?